

# CALLING THE SHOTS



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## Hi! Greetings from the Hawaii Immunization Program

Did you know that the Hawaii Immunization Program (HIP) is comprised of three units that offer a wide range of immunization related services?

Most of you are familiar with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program coordinated by our Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit (VSDU) Pharmacist, Loriann Kanno, and clerical staff Heather Winfield-Smith and Juliet Jumila. Along with handling the VFC program, the VSD unit also distributes vaccine for the Epidemiology Branch Hepatitis Control section as well as State influenza vaccine, purchased for the purpose of vaccinating uninsured, at-risk adults.

The members of the Assessment and Technical Support Unit (ATSU) are here to assist you if you have any technical questions regarding immunizations or their administration. ATSU also offers free assessments of immunization rates. In addition, ATSU oversees the collection and validation of school immunization data, certifies yellow-fever vaccination providers, collects Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) forms, and offers school health requirement training to public and private schools. The hardworking staff in ATSU are Dr. Marcia Nagao, XiaoWei (Kate) Cui, Scott Nishimoto, and Mila Fernandez. You can reach ATSU by calling 586-8313.

If you need immunization related promotional or educational materials or would like a schedule of immunization training sessions for you or your staff, you can call upon the Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDIU) at 586-8321. Judy Strait-Jones will be happy to supply you with various posters, brochures, videos, etc.

## New Faces at HIP:



*Malama Ralene Markowitz, R.N.*



*Loriann Kanno, Pharm D.*

This year has brought some exciting new faces to the program. We have a new head honcho--Malama Ralene Markowitz, R.N., has graciously agreed to lead this enthusiastic crew in the 21st century as our Hawaii Immunization Program Manager. She worked in maternal and child health before coming to the program.

Loriann Kanno, Pharm D., has also joined the bunch to lead our Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit. Lori brings a breath of fresh air to the unit with her emphasis on teamwork and cooperation.

# Season's Greetings





# Just a Reminder:

**The VFC provider enrollment/profile packets are now due. Please contact VFC at 586-8312 or 1-800-933-4832 (neighbor islands) if you'd like more information.**



The Three VFC Musketeers (L to R) are Heather, Juliet, and Lori

## VFC Update

by Loriann Kanno, Pharm D.  
Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit

## ~~Illegible Forms~~

by James Wasa, Data Processing Systems Analyst

Do you ever wonder what happens to your VFC forms once they leave your office? Getting vaccine information from paper form into electronic media involves numerous steps. Four main steps must occur in order to achieve this process: accurate completion of the Vaccine Administration Visit Record (VAVR) by providers, clear microfilmed image of the VAVR, precise data entry via the microfilm, and careful de-duplication of the information. If errors occur during any one of these processes, inaccurate information will be recorded in our database.

As we all know, everyone's handwriting varies. The alphabet itself has letters that look very similar even when typewritten. Some examples are the letters "i" and "l", "j" and "d", "a" and "o" just to name a few. This problem not only occurs with letters, but numbers too ("7" and "1", "4" and "9"). From the examples listed above, you can see where many problems are encountered due to simple legibility problems. In the hope of avoiding such problems in the future, we encourage you to quickly review any VFC forms before mailing.



Our ATSU Team consists of (L to R):

James, Scott, Mila, Marci, and Xiao Wei



Meet Judy, our PDIU point person!

Did you know that the Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit (VSDU) distributes over 200,000 doses of Vaccines For Children (VFC) vaccine per year and receives over 6000 VFC forms per month? Our VFC team coordinates vaccine distribution for more than 320 providers statewide. This includes purchasing vaccines for our State depot, processing provider orders, updating provider profiles on an annual basis, and accounting for all VFC vaccine.

Over the last year, new forms and procedures have been implemented to streamline our services and better serve you, our providers. The "Provider Toolkit", released in November, has received many positive responses. Some things to look forward to in the coming year are new VAVR forms that combine the Patient Eligibility Checksheet, Vaccine Administration Visit Record, and Teen Vax form into one, more newsletters, and a new and improved "Provider Toolkit". We value your input and would welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have. Please feel free to call us at 586-8312 or 1-800-933-4832 (neighbor islands).

**Project Development and Implementation (PDI) thinks that Santa may have some essential resources on his delivery list.**

**For example:**

- ☆ Keiki and Kupuna immunization posters and brochures
- ☆ Hep B Comic books for teens and pre-teens!
- ☆ Erasers for the little ones
- ☆ Immunization videos for your viewing pleasure

PDI would be happy to supply them for you. Call us today for a directory of resources. They are all FREE! Judy can be reached at 586-8321.